

Introduced by Senators Pan and De León

June 30, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 158—Relative to Promise Zones.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 158, as introduced, Pan. Promise Zones.

This measure would encourage the State Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Food and Agriculture to give federally designated Promise Zones priority consideration and preferred access to, and competitive preferences for, state funding, resources, and programs. The measure would urge California to explore implementation of models developed by federal programs that give preferences to Promise Zones.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, A child's ZIP Code should never determine his or
2 her destiny; and

3 WHEREAS, Today, the community a child grows up in greatly
4 impacts his or her odds of graduating from high school, health
5 outcomes, and economic opportunities; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2013, President Obama announced the
7 establishment of the Promise Zones Initiative to partner with
8 high-poverty communities across the nation to create jobs, increase
9 economic security, expand educational opportunities, increase
10 access to affordable quality housing, and improve public safety;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, On January 8, 2014, President Obama designated
13 Los Angeles, California, as one of the nation's first Promise Zones

1 and on April 28, 2015, designated Sacramento, California, as a
2 Promise Zone. This spring, President Obama will announce the
3 third round of Promise Zone designations; and

4 WHEREAS, Each Promise Zone designation must have a
5 contiguous geography, an overall poverty rate at or above 33
6 percent, a high unemployment rate, and a low high school
7 graduation rate; and

8 WHEREAS, Each Promise Zone has identified clear outcomes
9 to pursue in order to revitalize its community with a focus on
10 creating jobs, increasing economic activity, improving educational
11 opportunities, reducing violent crime, and becoming a national
12 model for other struggling communities; and

13 WHEREAS, Each Promise Zone will continuously track its
14 progress and share its data with community partners, including,
15 but not limited to, private sector, nonprofit, federal, state, and local
16 agencies, so that each partner can work towards improvement and
17 accountability within the Promise Zone; and

18 WHEREAS, Each Promise Zone will receive competitive
19 preference and priority consideration to access federal programs
20 and resources within the United States Department of Education,
21 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development,
22 the United States Department of Justice, and the United States
23 Department of Agriculture to supplement local efforts as it works
24 toward its goals; and

25 WHEREAS, Each Promise Zone will be provided five full-time
26 AmeriCorps VISTA members to support its strategic plan. These
27 VISTA members will recruit and manage volunteers and strengthen
28 the capacity of the Promise Zone to expand economic
29 opportunities; and

30 WHEREAS, Each Promise Zone designation will be for a term
31 of 10 years and President Obama has proposed tax cuts on hiring
32 and investment in areas designated as Promise Zones to attract
33 businesses and create jobs; and

34 WHEREAS, As outcomes are achieved and best practices are
35 developed, federal agencies will consider expanding improvements
36 in the delivery of federal funding and services to other communities
37 seeking similar opportunities and results; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
39 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages the State
40 Department of Education, the Department of Housing and

1 Community Development, the Department of Justice, and the
2 Department of Food and Agriculture to give priority consideration
3 and preferred access to state programs and resources to federally
4 designated Promise Zones in California that support job creation
5 and economic security, expand educational opportunities, increase
6 access to affordable quality housing, and improve public safety;
7 and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the State Department of Education, the
9 Department of Housing and Community Development, the
10 Department of Justice, and the Department of Food and Agriculture
11 should consider giving Promise Zones competitive preferences for
12 state funding and programs; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That California should explore implementation of the
14 same models that have been developed by the federal programs
15 that give preferences to Promise Zones; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
17 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.